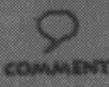
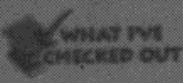


Kapp
Family
Papers

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NEW SEARCH

REVISE SEARCH

SEARCH HISTORY



Title Kapp family papers, 1818-1898 (scattered dates).

Author Kapp family.

Description .1 linear ft.

Biography/History Family of Christian F. Kapp, immigrant from Württemberg, Germany, to Northfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, his wife Regina Schlechter Danner Kapp, and her son by a previous marriage, Simon Danner, who served in Co. I, 1st U.S. Sharpshooters, and later in Co. D, 9th Michigan Infantry, during the Civil War.

Summary Letters, 1862 and 1865, of Simon Danner describing his military experiences; other letters of Simon Danner, and letters and legal documents of other family members.

Subjects German Americans--Michigan.
Northfield (Mich. : Township)
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Subjects (Name) Schlechter family.
United States. Army. Michigan Infantry Regiment, 9th (1861-1865).
Company D.
United States. Army. Sharpshooters Regiment, 1st (1861-1864). Company
L.
Capps family

Contributors Danner, Simon.
Kapp, Christian F. (Christian Franz), 1806-1882.

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NEW SEARCH

REVISE SEARCH

Civil War and Post Civil War Era Letters from Simon Danner

Mr. Simon Danner, of Northfield Twp., Washtenaw County, Michigan was the eldest son of Christian and Regina (Schlechter) Danner. He was born soon after his mother emigrated from Württemberg, Germany in 1835. His father died of tuberculosis and Mrs. Danner married Christian F. Kapp of Northfield on February 26, 1838. Simon (or Simeon as he is listed in the 1881 History of Washtenaw County, page 1450) and his brother John George Danner were raised in the Kapp household. Children of this second marriage, half sisters and brothers of Simon Danner, included Katherine Margaret (Mrs. David) Steffen, John (M.D. in Ann Arbor), Maria Barbara (Mrs. Ascher) Bennett, Christian (M.D. in Manchester), Mary (Mrs. George) Maulbetsch, Gotthilf Frederick, Caroline (Mrs. J. Michael) Braun, and Sarah (Mrs. Charles) Prochnow.

Simon Danner served two periods in the Civil War, in 1862 in the vicinity of Richmond, Virginia and in 1865 with the 9th Michigan Infantry at Nashville, Tennessee. Between these periods of service he was married and established a farm in Ronald Twp. in north central Ionia County, probably on government land made available for homesteading to Civil War veterans.

Thirteen letters by Simon Danner or his wife Cherrie to the Kapp family in Northfield were preserved by his parents and later came into the possession of Francis Maulbetsch, the executor of the estate of Regina Prochnow, daughter of Mr. Danner's half-sister Sarah. These letters are especially informative about the circumstances in which the writer found himself and will be of interest to persons seeking primary documents about Civil War times and conditions in the "frontier" of Michigan in the 1860s. A listing of the letters will serve as an inventory of these letters which will be printed in the original spelling and punctuation form.

- #1 June 7 and 8, 1862 from camp near New Bridge (area of Richmond, Va.).
- #2 June 13, 1862 from Head Quarters Berdens U.S.S.S., near New Bridge.
- #3 June 13, 1862, "very late" describing battle skirmishes.
- #4 August 1, 1862 from New York describing trip to find an uncle, Frederick Danner in Newark, New Jersey
- #5 July 17, 1864 from Ronald (Twp., Ionia Co.) with note to sisters Sarah and Carrie from his wife Cherrie, mentioning newborn son.
- #6 September 10, 1864 from Ronald mentioning farm activities and prices.
- #7 December 4, 1864 noting that he had received \$100 from father.
- #8 April 19, 1865 from Mrs. C. C. Danner at Ronald noting that Sim had gotten back to Nashville last week where they expect to stay all summer
- #9 April 22, 1865 from Nashville, 9th Mich. Inft. Co. D noting the responses to Lincoln's death and burial.
- #10 June 4, 1865 from Gen. Thomas' Hdqtrs, Nashville regarding prisoner's detention and release, Texas Rangers, Gen. Sherman's command, etc.
- #11 August 6, 1865 from Nashville regarding location of the "Northfield boy"
- #12 October 15, 1865 from Ronald (Twp.) re. driving a team to him (3 days)
- #13 December 13, 1869 from Ronald with graphic account of deer hunting.

Letter #10 from Simon Danner

Baraks 9th Mich. Infr.
June the 4 1865

Nashville Tenn

Dear Brother

with pleasure I will new answer you leeter of May the 21 I received it three days ago but had no time to write untill to day or I Should of writen Sooner I was glad that you were all well. that was Sad news you Rote me that Jaks mother was Dead^{1/} I hope that Jake will or has gon Back. Cherry wrote and told me that Jake had gon home But She said that Jake promised to côm Back I hope he has don so Cherry was fritened when She received a telegraph She thought that Something hapned me But I am well as ever I was I hope that Barbary is geting Better that Detroit Paper you Send me Stated that we would Soon bee in Michigan We expected to leave before now But those prisners keeps us here and this Regiment has always don detached duty at General thomasas head quarters for that Reson I think we will hafto Stay untill those Prisners are Peroled we are Sending som off Every day we had Eleven hundred texicans Rangers they were cavelty they was savage looking fellows we had to take them to Arcansaw and to texas they belonged thair they was So much Buisness to do here Genral thomas Sent them home to Bee mustered out thare was five boys detailed Out of each company they have not got Back yet I hapened to Donen to town to geneal head quarters went donen to Cary a dispatch from the prison So I was luckey that I did not hafto go ~~XXXXXX~~ for I am so tired of guarding prisners I have been three times to Lewisville and I am tired Riding on the cars But I hope that I will get a Ride for Mich we are under General Sherman now and they are Discharging Every Day about 7 hundred that is them that thair time is out we will perhaps Stay one or two Months yet But I cant tell thare is so many stories Every Day is a Difrant Storie So I cant Believe nothing I Seen is this mornings Paper that the ywars men wear going to bee Discharged first But I cant see why they wont Discharge the hole Regt But you cant Belive nothing I hope that we will bee Soon Discharged So I can bee at home for I am more neaded thair than here and thare is somany Sick and they dont Discharge them out of this Regt for we have the meanist officers that I Ever seen and the Boys will Soon Break Out on them if it goes so much longer the Regiment has not been paid of in ten months they cant Buy ~~XXX~~ nothing

^{1/} Jacob Kapp's mother was Anna Schnitzler Kapp who died 18 May 1865. SM was anxious that Jake go back to the Ionia Co. farm to help his wife.

there is Plenty to get here they cant even get any tobacco But I think the Reson we dont get any Pa\$ is that they will not pay untill we are mustered Out you wanted to know about Jeff (? Jefferson Davis, Confederate President?) the news was that he is in washington along with Genral Lee and thair families we have in Prison about 350 Diserters and Bounty Jumpers But som gets Discharged Every Day I com on duty once in Every four or five days hardly anything to do only to keep Slick and keep the Barax clean we had company and Regimentel Enspection this fournoon also we have one Every week so that the Boys will keep thair cloths clean If thare is any thing that the Regt is coming home you will See it in the Detroit paper if we dont get discharged in the two months I will try and get a furlow if I can Dose George Maulbetsch Live on the plank Road near Ann Arbor or whare dose he live when you write tell me how times are thair I will now close for this time give my best respects to all write Soon I hope these few lines will find you all well as I now am

Respectfully yours

from your Brother

Simon Danner

9th Mich Inft Vol

Co D

Nashville

Tennessee

Camp 9th Michi Inft

Nashville Tenn

April the 22 1865

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter of April 17th was glad to hear from you I have been looking for a letter three weeks I thought perhaps you had forgotten me So I rote a letter to Barbary this Morning to See what was the mater I also Received the pictur of Fredies This is the first letter that I got from you So I thought I would answer it Right off It is most night I have only a few minuts to write So I must hurry my cakes it is Soon Dresperade time Since we left Chattanooga We hase good times Chattanooga is 150 miles South of here We had a good time thair Only Riding on the cars So much it was tuff But we are in good quarters here in good new barex Every thing comfterble and Plenty to Eat and then thare is not We have a chance to Buy it I traid Enough so I can live good I have [made 25 Dollars. Since I have Been in the Survis that is just Spending money What I want about 50 cents per Day We are guarding the Penetentury and Doing Provost guard Duty in this City Our Camp is near the prison and about one mile from the heart of the City I was on Guard yesterday at genral thomases head quarters I heard him Say that our Regt would bee in michigan Between this and the forth But it is to good to Believe I wish you could of been here on the 18th the Day that lincoln was Buried thare was 9 Brigads Besides all the Citiens and all of the Mecanicks It was Beutiful Cavelry thare was 4 Batries was fired ten vollies it put me in mind of old virgina to hear the cannonading Every man that was able to walk had to turnout it was Salum to hear the musick and to See Sight how the People turned out the night lincoln was shot we had an officers Dance about two miles from our camp our company was detailed to guard the Building when the Dance was over the guards was all called in we had a fine supper wine whiskey ham oysters sardiens Ry x cake of diferert kinds coffee crackers an Every thing you can think of in the morning we Returned to our quarters hapy we had only got in and got Ready to Selebrate the Day and was agoing to have a free Denner down in the City all of the Soldiers about Seven Redts got together and commenced to march We was halted a dispatch came that lincoln was Shot that brook the hole thing up we was ordered to our quarters we Entended to have a great Selebration

XXX /1/ Barbary (Barbara Kapp Bennett), Simon's half-sister is listed as having died on 10 February 1865; either Simon did not know it or, more likely that death date is wrong. *Actually death was Feb 10 or 11, 1866 per telegram*

Feb. 12, 1866 A.M. "Barbara died last night" Christian Kapp

Letter #9, continued

Sence then we had not much news Every thing is very quiet flags ar floting half mased I hope the war will Soon close in this Regt. is a great many Drafted men We have here about five hundred Bounty jumpers and Diserters this prison is about four hundred feet ~~X~~ Square and four Story high I could leave the Ranks and have a Birth in rhw ~~prison~~ prison as a turn key But I did not like the Role I am satisfied where I am the drum is beating for Dresperad So I must close I am well and hope these few lines will find you all the Same Give my respects to all from your Brother

Simon Danner

Direct
9th Mich Inft
Co D
Nashville Tennessee

10/

Gen. W. H. Thomas lead Union troops successfully at the Battles of Chickamauga, S. of Chattanooga Tenn., Especially in September, 1864. he was then assigned to the defense of Nashville and there engaged Gen. Hood (Confederate) and other forces in September - December, 1864. Gen. Thomas' campaign saved Tennessee from recapture by the Confederacy. In the Spring of 1865 he was largely responsible for guarding the city, prisoners, etc. during the last days of the war which were being decided in battles in Virginia. (The History of the Civil War in America, vol II, John S. C. Abbott. New York, Ledyard Bill, 1866, pp. 419-439 (Chickamauga; p. 458 photo of Gen. Thomas; defense of Nashville - pp 482-487.)

See also The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War by Pagant Books, Patterson, N. J. 1958: "The Tennessee Campaign", p 286-288).

19
Letter #11 from Simon Danner

[Printed letterhead] Head-Quarters Military Division of the Tennessee
Inspector General's Office
Nashville, Tenn. August the 6 1865

Dear Brother

I received your kind litter of August the 1 I was glad to hear from you and that you wer all well But that was Sad news that Niclous Henz (possibly Lenz) had Died his folks must take it hard But it cant be helped God has called on him and So we all must go when called upon John I have been up to the Regiment this afternoon and got this letter [stationary] I have only time Sundays to bet my male so I want you to Direct your letters here for I will perhaps stay untill Discharged them two papers that i sent one was harpers weekly and the other Mashville times John I have a good place here Everything comfterbel live good But very Strick my Business is to see getting Rations on market Street and cook it But draw goverment Rations to what I buy is vegtiabes onions cabage tomatose milk and potatose times are very good here now But a great rush every day Discharging troops the news is now that we will bee in Mich by the first of Sept how true it is I dont know But I think it well bee soon you Spoke about my Brothernlaw he is at hom Sick and the other one is in the tenth cavelry between here and Noivill [?] I supose thare all of the Northfield Boys are John Sometime ago I Saw Bart Farley here is Nashville he is now on the Railroad Between Noiville [Nashville?] and Chattanooga he is Bagage master I saw a young man that See tim Friday he is from Ann Arbor But I forgot his name MX John thare is great Business going on here great Buildings going up Nashville looks defrent than it did last Spring it will Bee a nice City when all is Built up again when we are Discharged we can have our guns and all Equipages for Six Dollars But I dont want one of them without we will hafta take them to mich But I would not carry one ~~for it~~ for it I have turned mine over and I dont want to draw it again if I can help it this Doing guzrd duty is Played out with me the wether is very warm here yet thare was three Tennessee Regiments mustered out this week and more coming from Gorgia I gues it will bee Soon our turn John you must excuse poor writing for I must get supper for two of the orderlys and the Sargent I hope that this will find you all well as I new am Best Respects to all from your Brother
Simon Danner

Direct as you See the adress on the heading of this latter it will com without fail

Letter # 12 of Simon Danner

[Written on the same printed military letterhead as letter #11]

Ronald, Oct the 15/65

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter under date the 10 Instant I received it Friday But was so buisy puting in my wheat So I will now write you a few lines to let you know haw I get along. John I Broak four acres and got it into wheat and will Break three acres more for Spring crop for it is to late to put into wheat. Jake is going Out thair in a day or two I will try and keep him to morone[?] to help me John I hafto pay Jake twenty Dollars a month he has Been here seven months I tryed to Pay him about fifteen Dollars But he would not that So of course I will hafto Pay him But I stired up his cakes Sence I came home John I have Sold my oxen for one hundred and fifty Dollars that will Just pay Jake he earnt not quarter of it John after this week I will Come out after the horses But I wish that you could come out and Bring them But suppose you cant leave I wish you would See if Christian or Fredrick couldent Bring them Out for me it is Just thre days drive They Tout will be to lansing from thairé to Portland from thair to lyons and then to North Plains and Eugenia But as Soon as you find Out let me know whether they want ~~xx~~ to com or not so I can to weak after this I thought Perhaps one of the Boys would like to com out with the horses and then go back by railroad. John I will Send them things the first time I go to town John be shure and writeas soon as you Can I ~~will~~ will not leave home untill I hear from you ~~xxx~~write Soon if the Boys cant com out let me know and I will com myself I have the use of my oxen a few longer I will try and finish breaking with them Before I let them go New ~~x~~ be shure and see the Boys and lit me know and I will nt leave untill I hear from Our Respects to all Yours Respectfully from your brother

Simon Danner

Camp 9th Mich. Inf.

20

Nashville Tenn
April 22nd 1865

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter of April 14th was glad to hear from you I have been looking for a letter three weeks I thought perhaps you had forgotten me so I wrote a letter to Barclay this morning to see what was the matter I also received the picture of the ladies this is the first letter that I got from you so I thought I would answer it right off it is most night I have only a few minutes to write so I must hurry my cakes it is soon breakfast time since we left Chattanooga we have good times Chattanooga is 15 or 20 miles South of here we had a good time there only riding on the cars so much it was tuff But we are in good quarters here in good new Barracks every thing comfortable and plenty to eat and when there is not we have a chance to buy it I tried enough so I can live good I have

made 25 Dollars since I have been
 in the Service that is just spending
 money what I want about 50 cents per
 day we are guarding the Penitentiary and
 doing Provost guard duty in this City
 Our Camp is near the prison and about
 one mile from the heart of the City
 I was on Guard yesterday at general
 Thompsons head quarters I heard him say
 that our Regt would be in Michigan
 between this and the fourth But it is
 to hard to believe I wish you could of
 been here on the 18th day that Lincoln
 was buried there was 9 Brigades besides
 all the Citizens and all of the Mechanics
 it was beautiful Cavalry there was 4
 Batteries was fired ten volleys it put
 me in mind of old Virginia to hear
 the Cannonnading Every man that was
 able to walk had to turn out it was
 Salute to hear the musick and to see
 the sight how the people turned out
 the night Lincoln was shot we had
 an officers Dance about two miles
 from our camp our company was ^{ed} set
 to guard the Building when the Dance
 was over the guards was all called
 in we had fine Supper fine Whisky

22

ham oysters Sardinia Pyz Cake of rife
Kinds Coffee Crackers and Every thing you
Can think of in the morning We Returned
to our quarters happy we shall only get
in and get Ready to Celebrate the Day
and Was going to have a free Sonne Down
in the City all of the Soldiers about
Seven Regts got to gether and commenced
to march We was halted a Dispatck
Came that Lincoln was shot that Break
th hole thing up we was ordered to our
quarters w. Entended to have a great
Celebration Sence then we had not
much news Every thing is very quiet
flags ar flying half mased & hope the war
will soon close in this Regt. is a great
many Drafted men We have here about
five hundred Bounty Jumpers and Deserters
this prison is about four hundred feet
Square and four story high I could leave
the Ranks and have a Birth in the prison as a
turn key But I did not like the job I am
Satisfied where I am the Drim is Beating for
Desperad Do I must close I am well and hope
these few lines will find you all the Sam
give my Respects to all } Direct
from your Brother } 4th Mich Inf
Simon Janner } Cor D
Nashville Tennessee

McShaille Lenn

24
Wraps of Michig

June 4th 1864

Dear Brother

with pleasure I will now
answer your letter of May 21st I received
it three days ago but had no time to
write untill to day or I should of
written sooner I was glad that you were
all well. that was sad news you
told me that Dake's mother was dead
I hope that Dake will or has gain'd
back. Cheng wrote and told me that
Dake had gain'd home but she said
that Dake promised to com back I hope
he has done so. Cheng was pitted when
she received a telegraph she thought that
something hapned me but I am well
as ever I was I hope that Barbary is
getting better that Detroit Paper has
sent me stated that we would soon
be in Michigan we expected to leave
before now but those prisoners keeps
us here and this Regiment has always
on detached duty at general Thomas's
head quarters for that reason I think
we will have to stay untill those prisoners
are released we are sending some aff

Every Day we had Eleven Hundred
 Mexicans Rangers they were Cavalry they were
 Savage looking fellows we had to take
 them to Arcansas and to Texas they belong^{ed}
 there they was so much Business to Gen
 lral Thomas sent them home to
 Bee mustered out there was five Regts
 Detailed out of each company they have
 been gone ten days and they have not
 got back yet I hapened to Down to town
 to general head quarters went Down to
 Carry a Dispatch from the prison so I
 was lucky that I did not have to go I
 was glad that I did not have to go for
 I am so tired of guarding prisoners
 I have been three times to Lewisville
 and I am tired riding on the Cars But
 I hope that I will get a Ride for
 which we are under General Sherman
 now and they are Discharging Every Day
 about 4 hundred that is them that their
 time is out we will perhaps stay one or two
 Months yet But I cant tell there is so
 many stories Every Day is a different
 story so I cant believe anything I seen in
 this mornings Paper that the one year
 men was going to be Discharged first

But I Cant see why they wont Discharge
the hole Regt But you cant Believe nothing
I hope that we will Bee Soon Discharged
So I Can Bee at home for I am more creat^{ed}
thair than here and there is somany Sick
and they Dont Discharge them out of this
Regt for we have the meanist Officers
that I Ever Seen and the Boys will Soon
Break Out an them if it goes so much
longer the Regiment has wat Been Paid
Of in ten months they Cant Buy nothing
there is Plenty to get here they Cant even
Get any tobacco But I think the Reson
we Dont get any Pay is that they will
not Pay untill we are mustered Out
you wanted to know about Jeff the exers
was that he is in washington along with
General Lee and thair families we have
in Prison about 3,500 Disuters and Bounty
Dumpers But Sam gets Discharged Every
Day I Come in Duty Once in Every four or
five Days hardly any thing to do only to
keep Slick and keep the Barrs Clean we
had Company and Regimental Inspecton
this founnoon Also we have one Every week
so that the Boys will keep thair Cloths
Clean if there is any thing that the Regt.
is coming home you will see it in

the Detroit paper if we can't get
 discharged in the two months I will
 try and get a furlow if I can I see
 George Chaulbetch since on the plank
 Road near Ann Arbor as where I see he
 live when you write tell me how times
 are there I will now close for this
 time give my Best Respects to all
 write soon I hope these few lines will
 find you all well as I am

Respectfully yours

from your Brother

Simon Tanner

9th Mich Inf V Vol

Co D

Nashville

Tennessee

Head-Quarters Military Division of the Tennessee,
Inspector General's Office.

Nashville, Tenn. August 6th 1865.

Dear Brother

I Received your kind letter of August 1st & I was glad to hear from you and that you were all well But that was sad news that Nicholas Henry has died his folks must take it hard But it Cant Bee helped God has called on him and so we all must go when called upon John I have Been up to the Regiment this afternoon and got this letter I have only time Sundays to get my mail so I want you to direct your letters here for I will perhaps stay untill Discharged then two papers that I sent one was Harpers weekly and the other Nashville Times John I have a good place here Everything

Comfortable live good But very
strict my Business is to see
getting Rations on market Street
and cook it But I can guarantee
Rations to what I buy is negligibly
unions cabbage tomatoes milk and
Potatoes Times are very good here
now But a great Rush Every Day
Discharging troops the exers is now
that we will see in mich By
the first of Sept how true it
is I dont know But I think it
will be soon you spoke about
my Brother in law he is at home
sick and the other one in in the
Tenth Cavalry Betwene here and
Coville I suppose where all of
the Northfield Boys are down
Some time ago I saw Bart parley
here in Nashville he is now
on the Railroad Betwene ^{llg} Coville
and Chattanooga the is Baggage

master I saw a young man
that see him Friday he is from
Ann Arbor But I forgot his
name Darn There is great Buiness
going on here great Buildings
going up cras hille looks ^{like} better
than it did last Spring it
will bee a nice City when all is
Built up again when we are dis-
charged we can have our guns and
all Equipages for six Dollars But
I dont want one of them witho^{ut}
we will be apt to take them to much
But I would not care for it I
have turned mine over and I dont
want to draw it again if I can
help it This doing guard duty
is played out with me the weather
is very warm here yet there was
three Tennessee Regiments mustered
out this week and more coming from
Georgia I gues it will bee soon

30

our turn soon you must. Excuse
poor writing for I must get sleep
for two of the Ordeleys and the Sigs
I hope that this will find you
all well as I now am Best
Respects to all from your Brother

Simon Tanner

Direct as you see the
address on the heading of
this letter it will come
without fail

Direct your letter

Head quarters Div
of the Tenn

Inspector Gen. ^{v.iff}
Nashville Tenn